

### **Why is the BRTB doing a Vision?**

On December 2, 2008, the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB), serving as the metropolitan planning organization for the Baltimore region, unanimously agreed on the need for a regional long range transportation vision. The focus of this vision is to improve accessibility for all and promote livable and sustainable communities throughout the metropolitan area through coordinated inter-jurisdictional transportation planning.

Shortly thereafter, the Planning Directors of the region's local jurisdictions and the empowered members of the BRTB assembled to review this charge and to delineate an approach to accomplish the objective. The Team began its work by reviewing vision planning efforts in other metropolitan areas such as Pittsburgh, Chicago, Denver and Seattle as well as reviewing the local comprehensive plans of the region's six jurisdictions to identify technical assumptions, planning principles and shared goals.

### **Why use Scenario Planning to Develop a Vision for the Baltimore Region?**

Scenario planning is an inclusive, collaborative process intended to help better understand how different development patterns could affect the core issue areas of transportation, smart growth, the environment and economic development.

The intent is to:

- Spur discussion of the region's vision for the future;
- Measure the impacts of alternative land development policies against a set of shared goals and objectives;
- Create 'what if' growth scenarios;
- Gain input from an array of public outreach efforts;
- Gain valuable insight about the land use policies and transportation investments needed to accommodate a significant portion of the region's anticipated growth in a more efficient and sustainable manner; and
- Gain a better understanding of the potential "costs" or outcomes associated with each what if development scenario.

### **What will be the Results of this Vision Effort?**

The "Preferred Scenario" will frame future transportation investments included in the upcoming 2011 long-range transportation plan.

### **Who will be involved in the Vision Process?**

To ensure the success of this vision planning process, a number of public outreach activities and opportunities will be initiated. The purpose will be to:

- Capture the concerns and recommendations of the people who live and work in the Baltimore metropolitan area;

- Attract those stakeholders actively pursuing agendas that support the "call" for an integrated regional land use and transportation planning future;
- Work in tandem with other groups such as the Urban Land Institute, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Greater Baltimore Committee, Citizens Planning and Housing Association; and
- Engage environmental justice concerns and underserved communities as we collectively think and plan for the region's future.

### **How does this fit in with the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process?**

*To prepare* - In preparation of this scoping process, local and regional planners have been working to refine technical assumptions and analytical tools to help shape the preliminary growth scenarios both in their current form and future horizon. After careful consideration of federal, state and local transportation and environmental planning benchmarks and universal fiscal realities, the planning horizon of this collaborative vision framework will extend to 2050 and potentially beyond. Now, greater than ever, the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board seeks to integrate these influential factors into a comprehensive regional transportation vision.

*Using the vision results* - The goal of the vision process is to develop a planning framework to guide long-term transportation infrastructure priorities and investments. Public input garnered from the vision process will assist in setting an agenda for transportation investments to be included in the 2011 long range transportation plan.

*More efficient planning with fewer resources* - Evaluation criteria will be used to assure that transportation investments are consistent with the goals and policy guidance derived from the regional vision planning process. Prioritizing the recommendations of an unconstrained vision process into a fiscally constrained transportation plan will require continued state and local government coordination. With the strategic transportation investments included in the 2011 Plan comes the opportunity to implement a new approach to address interconnected issues.

*The timeframe* - Shaping the investment decisions for the 2011 regional transportation plan, the BRTB has set aside 20 months to complete the vision planning process. Over the coming months the BRTB, with the assistance of Baltimore Metropolitan Council staff, will develop a formal work scope, initiate the consultant selection process and negotiate a contract. The remaining months will be designed to engage the public in a regional conversation about the future; conduct technical analyses of the impacts of alternative land development scenarios; and, develop consensus on a Preferred Scenario.

*The amount of effort* - Based on similar regional planning efforts, costs associated with the vision process could range between \$500,000 and \$750,000. US Department of Transportation metropolitan planning funds should be available to support this effort.